

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~An automated device recordation and registration process for automatically registering, on a remote computer, an embedded device~~ A method performed by a device to register the device with a remote computer, the method comprising:

storing an address of the remote computer, the address comprising a known address that is predetermined and that is not obtained via a discovery process;

~~a feature detection process for detecting feature information associated with a~~ the device,
the feature information comprising device-specific information to be registered; and

~~a feature transmission process for registering the device with the remote computer by transmitting said the feature information to the a remote computer at a the known address using a self-describing computer language; and a registration process for registering said device by storing said feature information on said remote computer.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ self-describing computer language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

3. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ known address corresponds to ~~known address~~ is a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

4. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the known address corresponds to known address~~ is a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) address.

5. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the device-specific feature~~ information comprises a device type and a device instance.

6. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 5, wherein ~~said the device type is~~ comprises a model number of the device and ~~said the device instance is~~ comprises a serial number of the device.

7. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 1, wherein ~~said the remote computer includes~~ comprises a database for storing ~~said the~~ feature information.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 7, wherein determining comprises ~~including a device registration status process for~~ examining ~~said the~~ database to determine if ~~said the~~ device was previously registered ~~on said~~ with the remote computer ~~and initiating said registration process if said device is not registered.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 7 & 8, wherein ~~said the~~ remote computer resides on a distributed computing network and ~~said the feature~~

~~transmission process transmits said~~ feature information is transmitted to ~~said the~~ remote computer via ~~said the~~ distributed computing network.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 9, wherein ~~said the~~ distributed computing network is comprises the Internet.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 9, wherein ~~said the~~ device is connected to ~~said the~~ distributed computing network via a direct network connection.

12. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 9, wherein ~~said the~~ device is connected to ~~said the~~ distributed computing network via a dial-up network connection.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 9, wherein ~~said the~~ device is connected to ~~said the~~ distributed computing network via a wireless network connection.

14. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 9 7, wherein ~~said the~~ device-specific information relates to ~~includes~~ embedded software which controls ~~said the device~~ device's functionality, ~~where said the~~ embedded software ~~has~~ having a first specific version identifier ~~associated with it~~.

15. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 14, wherein ~~said the~~ database stores a software update[[,]] having a second ~~specific~~ version identifier associated with it, ~~for said embedded software of said device, where said, the~~ software update is ~~the~~ comprising a different newest version of the embedded software ~~available for said device~~.

16. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 15, further comprising including a software comparison process for comparing ~~said the first~~ version identifier of ~~said software update~~ to ~~said the second~~ version identifier of ~~said embedded software of said device~~ to determine if ~~said the~~ embedded software ~~of said device~~ needs to be updated.

17. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 16, further comprising including a software update process, responsive to said software comparison process determining that said the embedded software needs to be updated, for updating said the embedded software ~~residing on said device with said~~ using the software update if it is determined that the embedded software needs to be updated.

18. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 7, wherein ~~said the~~ feature information ~~includes~~ comprises system information concerning ~~the~~ location, ownership, and configuration of ~~said the~~ device.

19. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 18, further comprising configuring the ~~including a system information interface for allowing the owner of said device to configure said~~ system information via a system information interface.

20. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 19, wherein ~~said the device includes~~ comprises a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) device web server and ~~said the system information interface is~~ comprises a software application residing on ~~said the~~ device web server, and the method further comprises:

~~where the owner of said device can edit said~~ editing the system information of ~~said device~~ by accessing ~~said the~~ system information interface via a remote web client.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 19, further comprising: including a system information transmission process for

transmitting ~~said the~~ system information to ~~said the~~ remote computer using ~~said the~~ self-describing computer language ~~and for storing said system information on said database of said remote computer.~~

22. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 21, further comprising ~~wherein said the system information transmission process includes a system information comparison process for comparing the system information on said the remote computer to the system information on said the device to determine if said the database on said the remote computer needs to be updated with said the system information on said the device.~~

23. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 22, further comprising wherein said system information transmission process includes a system information upload process, responsive to said system information comparison process determining that said system information on said database needs to be updated, for updating said system information in the ~~on said~~ database with said the system information ~~on said~~ from the device.

24. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 7, wherein ~~said the device includes~~ comprises a device web client and ~~said the remote computer includes~~ comprises a HyperText Transfer Protocol (HTTP) remote web server.

25. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 24, wherein ~~said the remote computer includes an~~ comprises application logic to interface ~~said the~~ remote web server and ~~said the~~ database.

26. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 25, wherein ~~said the feature transmission process utilizes said device web client to upload said~~ transmits the feature information from ~~said the~~ device to ~~said the~~ remote web server, ~~where said and the~~ application logic transmits ~~transfers said the~~ feature information from ~~said the~~ remote web server to ~~said the~~ database.

27. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 7, wherein ~~said the device includes~~ comprises a device mail client and ~~said the remote computer includes~~ comprises a Simple Mail Transfer Protocol (SMTP) remote mail server.

28. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 27, wherein ~~said the remote computer includes an~~ comprises application logic to interface ~~said the~~ remote mail server and ~~said the~~ database.

29. (Currently Amended) The ~~device registration process~~ method of claim 28, wherein ~~said feature transmission process utilizes said the device mail client to upload said~~ transmits the feature information from ~~said the~~ device to ~~said the~~ remote mail server, ~~where said and the~~ application logic ~~transfers said~~ transmits the feature information from ~~said the~~ remote mail server to ~~said the~~ database.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~A computer implemented method for registering, on a remote computer, a device embedded in an apparatus,~~ A machine-readable medium that stores instructions that are executed by a device to register the device with a remote computer, the instructions causing the device to comprising:

store an address of the remote computer, the address comprising a known address that is predetermined and that is not obtained via a discovery process;

~~detecting~~ detect feature information associated with ~~a~~ the device, the feature information comprising device-specific information to be registered; and

~~transmitting said~~ register the device with the remote computer by transmitting the feature information to a the remote computer at ~~a~~ the known address using a self-describing computer language; ~~and registering said device by storing said feature information on said remote computer.~~

31. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein ~~said~~ the self-describing computer language comprises eXtensible Markup Language (XML).

32. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein ~~said known address is~~ the known address corresponds to a Uniform Resource Locator (URL).

33. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein ~~said known address is~~ the known address corresponds to a Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol (TCP/IP) address.

34. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein ~~said~~ the feature information comprises a device type and a device instance.

35. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 34, wherein ~~said the~~ device type is comprises a model number and ~~said the~~ device instance is comprises a serial number.

36. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein ~~said the~~ remote computer includes comprises a database for storing ~~said the~~ feature information.

37. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 36, ~~further comprising instructions~~ wherein determining comprises examining ~~said the~~ database to determine if said the device was previously registered on said the remote computer; and initiating said registration process if said device is not registered.

38. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 36, wherein ~~said the~~ device includes comprises embedded software which controls the device ~~said device's functionality, where said the~~ embedded software has a specific having a first version identifier associated with it.

39. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 38, wherein ~~said the~~ database stores a software update[[,]] having a second specific version identifier, the associated with it, for said embedded software of said device,

~~where said~~ software update is ~~the newest~~ comprising a different version of the embedded software ~~available for said device.~~

40. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 39, further comprising instructions that cause the device to:

~~comparing said version identifier of said software update to said version identifier of said embedded software of said device~~ compare the first version identifier to the second version identifier to determine if ~~said the~~ embedded software ~~of said device~~ needs to be updated.

41. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 40, further comprising instructions that cause the device to:

~~updating said~~ update the embedded software ~~residing on said device~~ with ~~said the~~ software update if it is determined that ~~said the~~ embedded software needs to be updated.

42. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 30, wherein ~~said the~~ feature information ~~includes~~ comprises system information concerning ~~the~~ location, ownership, and configuration of ~~said the~~ device.

43. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 42, further comprising instructions that cause the device to receive the system information ~~including a system information interface for allowing the owner of said device to~~ configure said system information.

44. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 43, further comprising instructions that cause the device to:

~~transmitting said~~ transmit the system information to ~~said the~~ remote computer using ~~said the~~ self-describing computer language; and ~~storing said system information on said database of said remote computer.~~

45. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 44, further comprising instructions that cause the device to:

~~comparing the~~ compare system information on ~~said the~~ remote computer to the system information on ~~said the~~ device to determine if ~~said a~~ database on ~~said the~~ remote computer needs to be updated with ~~said the~~ system information ~~on said~~ from the device.

46. (Currently Amended) The ~~computer implemented method~~ machine-readable medium of claim 45, further comprising instructions that cause the device to:

~~updating said~~ update the system information on ~~said the~~ database with ~~said the~~ system information ~~on said~~ from the device if it is determined that ~~said the~~ system information on ~~said the~~ database needs to be updated.

47 and 48. (Cancelled)

49. (New) A device that registers with a remote computer, the device comprising:

a processing device that executes instructions to:

store an address of the remote computer, the address comprising a known address that is predetermined and that is not obtained via a discovery process;

detect feature information associated with the device, the feature information comprising device-specific information; and

register the device with the remote computer by transmitting the feature information to a remote computer at the known address using a self-describing computer language.

50. (New) A method performed by a device to register the device with a remote computer, the method comprising:

storing an address of the remote computer, the address comprising a known address that is predetermined and that is not obtained via a discovery process;

detecting feature information stored for the device, the feature information comprising device-specific information and information relating to an apparatus associated with the device; and

transmitting the feature information to the remote computer at the known address using a self-describing computer language.

51. (New) A machine-readable medium that stores instructions that are executed by a device to register the device with a remote computer, the instructions causing the device to:

store an address of the remote computer, the address comprising a known address that is predetermined and that is not obtained via a discovery process;

detect feature information stored for the device, the feature information comprising device-specific information and information relating to an apparatus associated with the device; and

transmit the feature information to the remote computer at the known address using a self-describing computer language.

52. (New) A device that registers with a remote computer, comprising:

a processing device that executes instructions to:

store an address of the remote computer, the address comprising a known address that is predetermined and that is not obtained via a discovery process;

detect feature information stored for the device, the feature information comprising device-specific information and information relating to an apparatus associated with the device; and

transmit the feature information to the remote computer at the known address using a self-describing computer language.